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Electrical Safety - It's Shocking!

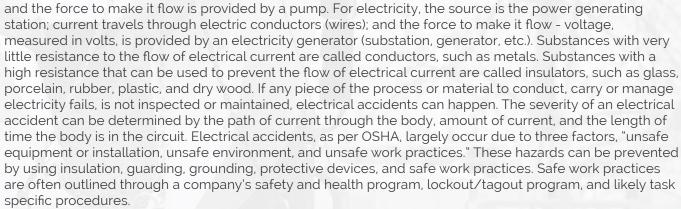
Electrical Safety at Ready Mixed Concrete Plants

All ready mixed concrete plants utilize electricity for a variety of reasons. Often electricity powers the plant, offices, laboratory, lighting, truck shop, equipment, machines, and much, much more. Electricity can also be carried to and throughout concrete plants by overhead or underground powerlines, extension cords, and generators. The use of electricity at concrete plants regularly means that employees, depending on the task, may work either directly or indirectly with electricity. According to the Occupational Safety and Health

Administration (OSHA), electricity is recognized as a serious workplace hazard that can cause shocks, electrocution, burns, falls, fires, explosions, cardiac arrest and even death. Due to the use of, and reliance on electricity at concrete plants it's important to have a working knowledge of electricity, understand the electrical hazards that exist, and how to manage those hazards.



To understand electricity use, think about an electric switch like a water faucet. Behind the faucet or switch there must be a source of water or electricity with something to transport it, and with a force to make it flow. In the case of water, the source is a reservoir or pumping station; the transportation is through pipes;



Electrical Safety Do's and Don'ts

- Think first, know the safety hazards at your work location
- Conduct an electrical hazard assessment of the plant to determine hazards, including an arc-flash survey
- Assume that all electrical wires are energized, and adhere to electrical signage
- Only authorized individuals should be allowed to work on plant electrical components
- Always practice Lock Out, Tag Out, Try Out (test), before working with or near electricity
- Always utilize established and safe work practices while working with electricity
- Always use the proper PPE and tools when working with electricity
- Never work with electricity in wet or damp conditions
- Use a qualified electrician for electrical work
- Exercise caution when working near electricity

Resources

NRMCA: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Program

NRMCA: Plant Safety
OSHA: Electrical Safety

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